

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, claim 1 is pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2-5 are cancelled and no claims are newly added. Applicant believes that this Amendment does not add new matter. In view of the foregoing Amendment and following Remarks, allowance of all the pending claims is requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 55-70173 ("55-70173"). The Examiner has further rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 60-25670 ("60-25670").

Claim 1 has been amended to recite features included in previously dependent claim 5, among other things. The Examiner has previously acknowledged that 55-70173 does not disclose at least the features included in previously claim 5. See Office Action at 2, lines 8-13. For at least this reason, 55-70173 does not disclose every feature of claim 1.

Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended to recite additional features not disclosed, taught, or suggested by 55-70173 or 60-25670.

For example, neither 55-70173 nor 60-25670 disclose, teach, or suggest, "a pair of electric motors (8, 8) supported by said support body (4), the electric motors (8, 8) individually driving a rotation of a respective one of said rotary wheels (7, 7)," as recited in claim 1 as amended.

In another example, neither 55-70173 nor 60-25670 disclose, teach, or suggest, "wherein a first one of said rotary wheels (7) and a first one of said electric motors (8) is supported by a left portion of the support pipe (16), and a second one of said rotary wheels (7) and a second one of said electric motors (8) is supported by a right portion of the support pipe (16)," as recited in claim 1 as amended.

In yet another example, neither 55-70173 nor 60-25670 disclose, teach, or suggest, "wherein a rotation speed of each of the rotary wheels (7, 7) are individually variable under

control of a respective one of the electric motors (8, 8) such that the rotation speed of each of the rotary wheels (7, 7) can be made different from one another," as recited in claim 1 as amended.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the references relied upon by the Examiner fail to disclose all the features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the pending claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Date: December 7, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Syed Jafar Ali
Registration No. 58,780

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, Virginia 22102
Main: 703-770-7900
Fax: 703-770-7901